

Fred Cuming RA

BIOGRAPHY



1930	Born in London
1945 - 49	Sidcup School of Art, having completed his National Service
1951 - 55	Royal College of Art, winning a Rome Scholarship and an Abbey Minor Scholarship
1969	became an ARA
1974	elected a Royal Academician
	Member of the New English Art Club
	Associate of the Royal College of Art
	Lives and works in East Sussex

AWARDS & SCOLARSHIPS

1950s	Rome Scholarship
1950s	Abbey Minor Scholarship
1977	Grand Prix Fine Art
1986	New English Art Club

Prize-winner in the Ingot Industrial Competition; Royal Academy of Art's House & Garden Award; Sir Brinsley Ford Prize

EXHIBITIONS

Cuming's first one-man show was held in 1978 at the Thackeray Gallery, London, and since then he has exhibited regularly in solo shows throughout the UK and more recently in the United States. His work has also been included in many group exhibitions since 1953, and in 2001 he was given the honour of being the featured artist in the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, with an entire gallery within the show being dedicated to his work.

The East Sussex coastline, in particular Camber and Rye, provide the backdrop for the majority of Cuming's work. The tonal and pictorial values in his preliminary oil studies are true to nature. On returning to the studio, Cuming uses his distinctive technique of quickly layered colour to achieve a sensitive and unique rendering of light and mood. His trademark palette, indicative of the Camden School Group, is refreshingly limited. It is this restricted palette that makes the paintings definitively 'Cuming'. We can liken Cuming's approach to his work to that of the changing nature of the English landscape. With the natural passing of time and the subsequent changes in light, Cuming's challenge is to capture a specific moment in time. The result is a series of perfectly formed thoughts. Each complete painting provides vital information for the next, whilst always retaining in the work a deep sense of individuality.

Recent exhibitions include shows at the following galleries:

Adam Gallery, Bath; Alresford Gallery, Alresford, Hampshire; Barneys Gallery, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA; City Gallery, London; Neville Gallery, Canterbury; New Grafton Gallery, London; Thompson's Gallery, Marylebone, London. Since 2004 - Various Art Fairs and Exhibitions represented by Advanced Graphics London including: London Art Fair, Islington, London; London Original Print Fair, Royal Academy of Arts, London; Glasgow Art Fair, George Square, Glasgow; 20/21 British Art Fair, The Royal College of Art, London; The Print Fair, IFPDA Members, Park Avenue Armory, New York and the Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I am not interested in pure representation, my work is about responses to the moods and atmospheres generated by landscape, still life or interior. I am interested in the developments of 20th Century painting in abstraction, that has always been present, and in new ideas and art forms. My philosophy is that the more I work the more I discover. Drawing is essential as a tool of discovery; skill and mastery of technique are also essential, but only as a vocabulary and a means towards an idea. I struggle to keep an open mind.